REMARKS

Claims 44 and 45 are now pending. Claim 44 is the independent claim. Claims 1-27 and 36-43 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.
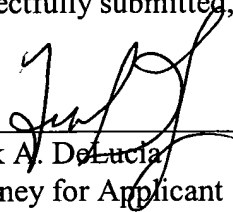
Claims 44 and 45 have been allowed.

Claims 1-4, 8, 13, 14, 36, 37 and 40-43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,628,053 (*Den et al.*). Claims 1-8, 22-25, and 36-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,973,444 (*Xu et al.*) in view of *Den et al.* Claims 1, 9, 10, 13-15, 22, 26, 27, 36, 40 and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,847,495 (*Yamanobe et al.*) in view of *Xu et al.* and further in view of *Den et al.* Claims 11, 12, and 16-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yamanobe et al.* in view of *Xu et al.* in view of *Den et al.* and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,066,883 (*Yoshioka et al.*).

Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 44 and 45. In keeping with this indication of allowable subject matter, all of the rejected claims have been cancelled. This action has been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding correctness of the rejections, but rather strictly to obtain an earlier allowance and to expedite issuance. In particular, it is Applicant's current intention to file a divisional application, to pursue the subject matter of the rejected claims.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of the added claims and early passage to issue of this case are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100 or by facsimile at (212) 218-2200. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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